

Buffalo County Mutual Aid Association -MEETING MINUTES -

Amherst: Glen Brown, Kevin Rumbeck
Buffalo County Sheriff: Dave Butler
Elm Creek: Jeff Davis, Jeff Schnacker
Emergency Management: Darrin Lewis
Gibbon: None
Good Samaritan: Joe Graf, Kevin Badgly
Kearney: Walt, Kelly Hardin, Sarah Isaac

Kearney PD: None
Miller: Randy John
Pleasanton: None
Ravenna: Don Zimmer, Tim Lammers
Shelton: None
Guests: None

Meeting called to order by President Jeff Davis.

MINUTES -- Previous meeting approved as presented.

PROGRAM -- None

OLD BUSINESS -- None

NEW BUSINESS --

Jeff Davis reported that the Fire Reporting training has been scheduled for March 17th 2007 at the Kearney Fire Training grounds from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Jeff requested that at least one or two individuals from each department sign up for this class. Walt reported that there is free software for the reporting tool that comes with the class. This software is much easier to use for tracking and completing reports than what the Kearney Fire Department is currently using.

Walt talked about the Ice Storm and the need for Generators at the Fire Stations. Walt checked into a company out of Holdrege called Almen Brothers. Kearney Fire has a portable generator from this company. The Kearney fire generator is an 8 K with an on board lighting system. The generators range from 8 to 20 K with lighting systems and next year with a cascade system. Walt thought the generators were priced at around \$24,000.00 each with a 10% discount for Fire Departments. Walt also indicated that the company has two used 20 K generators on hand at this time. Cost of these generators is unknown. Walt had fliers on the generators that were passed around to the group.

Darrin reported that he was going to look into what was called 404 money. This is mitigation money that will help cover some costs to prevent and or prepare for incidents that have happened or could happen. This may help the fire departments in gaining access to some funds for generators.

Jeff asked about the wild land fire and the NIMS cast for equipment and resources update. Darrin indicated that some fire departments and Law Enforcement have completed the resource up date, but there were several that still needed to complete it. There had been an electronic version sent out to all the departments to update, i.e. delete old equipment off of and add new equipment to the list. Several Fire Departments requested that the list be sent out again. Darrin said that that could be done.

Kevin from Good Samaritan Hospital asked if there were additional frequencies that they might be able to use when Med 9 has a lot of traffic on it. This request was due to the last multi-incidents where there was a house fire and 2 accidents all at the same time. It was stated by Darrin that there are no unused frequencies in Buffalo County, although there are frequencies that are not used as much as others. Tim and Don asked why responding agencies couldn't use the EM frequency when on scene to free up some traffic on other over loaded frequencies. This was asked because this is the protocol for the Weather spotting. Darrin stated that yes that would be OK as long as it was not such a large event that the EM frequency was in use for EM traffic. Kelly asked about the in truck repeaters that we were working on sometime back and why wouldn't this help with the radio traffic problem. Those repeaters have all been placed in the primary responding truck for each of the fire departments, and should be used for a ground frequency to free up other over loaded frequencies. Dave Butler from the Communications Center talked about some abilities we have at the communications center to help with radio traffic control, and the Interoperability System that gives us the ability to talk to just about anyone we want to. Much discussion ensued over this topic that continued throughout the meeting.

Good Samaritan reported that besides the communications issues the accident in Phelps County was handled very well and all responding agencies worked well together.

Jeff Davis asked for protocol information from Dave Butler on the EMS and the ESU call outs. And why it was that Good Samaritan EMS was the primary unit on these calls. Must discussion ensued over this topic.

The Fire Department reported that most all of the pagers that they have are Minitor 3's, 4's or 5's. Some have some of the older pagers that are smaller but they still take double A batteries. Charging and keeping the pagers charged in the future should not be a large problem as long as each department has access to AA or AAA batteries.

Darrin reported that the communities that did not have the fire bar phones would most likely not get them unless they could come up with \$58,000.00 for the cost of the system. Darrin stated that we have the Buffalo County High Speed Notification System that most of the fire departments are now on so that system can be in place of the fire bar phone system.

MEMBERS REPORT--

Amherst-- Pancake feed Sat. Feb. 24th 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Buffalo County Sheriff-- None

Elm Creek-- Will be having a pancake feed on the 27th from 5-8 at the Fire hall.

Emergency Management-- Severe Weather Spotter Training, March 8th 1830 to 2000 at Kearney Fire Training Grounds

Gibbon-- None

Good Samaritan-- Performance training next Tuesday the 20th.

Kearney FD-- 13th and 14th April Pump Class 19:00 Fri. and 0800 Sat.; House burn 24th April open to Mutual Aid; Red

Card Wild Land Fire Training June 18, 19, 25, 26 and the 30th

Miller-- None

Pleasanton-- None

Ravenna—Firemen's Ball Dance starts at 21:00

Shelton-- None

President—Jeff Davis

NEXT MEETING -- Next meeting will be on March 13, 2007 at 8:00 PM - location Kearney Fire Station 1.

Meeting adjourned-- 21:35

Respectfully submitted Darrin Lewis